



Big Idea: Membership that matters is included in Christ, intimately intertwined, and intensely involved.

-- Membership that matters is contrary to our culture.

- Our society longs for spiritual fulfillment, but people want it on their own.
- If you want a god like that, you are going to have to invent him, because the one true God simply doesn't allow that.
- Our desires for _____ are in direct conflict with our desires for real purpose and love.

-- v. 19 – “Consequently...”

- As with every part of God's purposes in Christ, none of them are halfhearted. None of them go only halfway.
- In Christ, we are as reconciled as people can possibly be—one body, one nation, one family, one temple.

1.) Membership that matters is _____ in Christ.

- v. 19a – As the church, we are fellow citizens of one new nation formed through faith in Christ.
- v. 19b – More than just fellow citizens, we are one household of brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 3:14-15).
- v. 21-22 – More than just brothers and sisters, we are forged together as one temple in which God dwells by His Spirit.
- Notice the exclusive nature of these three metaphors.

-- Anyone not part of the worldwide church through faith in Christ, is separated from God and without hope in the world (v. 11).

2.) Membership that matters is intimately _____.

-- As one new nation in Christ, we follow Jesus Christ as our King, are filled with the same Spirit, and have heaven as our home.

-- In Christ, we who are so very different form one family, intimately intertwined unto eternity (Romans 12:5).

-- As building blocks of one temple, we are as intertwined as we can possibly be.

3.) Membership that matters is intensely _____.

-- An Implication about Involvement from the Triune Nature of God.

-- v. 17-18 – God is a _____ unto Himself (John 17:24).

-- There is simply no way to know and experience God, who is Himself a community, unless you are deeply involved in the community He is creating on earth—the church.

-- Being involved in a family means being _____.

-- When we join a family, we willingly forfeit our independence.

-- Too many churchgoers treat the church like a restaurant.

-- Being a part of the living temple of God means deep involvement in _____ spirituality.

-- Notice: We (plural) are God's temple (singular).

-- Though my life in Christ begins in *me*, it culminates in *us*.

-- An hour or two on Sundays cannot honor the reality of these metaphors Paul uses to describe the church?

Q: *Does your involvement in the church affect your schedule or does your schedule affect your involvement in the church?*

Q: *Do you foster deep relationships in the church and frequently engage in communal spirituality? (Hebrews 3:13)*

-- Tim Keller – “Only if you are part of a community of believers seeking to resemble, serve, and love Jesus will you ever get to know him and grow into his likeness.”

-- Those who are included in Christ are intimately intertwined and are called to be intensely involved in the body of Christ. *Are you?*